

WRESTLING FORUM

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VOLUME 5

ISSUE 17

Wrestling's Best Kept Secret

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NOW THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!!!

AFTER SEVERAL ISSUES complaining that nothing was happening in the world of wrestling, the things exploded during the past two weeks! We've got news this time about the NWA's latest Clash of Champions; we got news about the wild stuff going on in Memphis; we've got news about the behind the scenes battles for control of World Class; we've got a world champion who is suing his promotion and trying to get a copy of the mysterious rulebook for his lawyer; and we've got the sickest, most disgusting angle ever conceived. For as boring as wrestling has been over the summer, it has certainly made up for it in the past two weeks.

BUT FIRST, LET US tell you that this is WRESTLING FORUM, wrestling's best kept secret. We publish this bulletin as we have since February of 1986 on the 15th and 30th of each month and mail the following day. Rates are \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe for up to six months at any one time. Overseas rates are \$2.50 per issue due to the special handling and high postage rates. Information of all sorts including results, letters to the editor, renewals, and other such stuff should be sent to WRESTLING FORUM, BOX 65, KNOXVILLE, IL 61448 unless otherwise specifically noted.

JUST TO KEEP YOU updated on the computer situation, we've been advised that it should be here by the end of October. I feel like that couple in "the Money Pit" who, whenever they asked how much longer it would take to fix their house, were told, "Two weeks." If that's the case, our subscription drive will begin in November.

I'VE NEVER REALLY FELT comfortable asking you to help with subscriptions. I always feel like one of the TV evangelists asking for more money. I'll try to keep the begging as tasteful as possible. We need about 125-150 new subscribers to A) stay in business a while and B) pay for the computer. As mentioned a while back, we will probably discontinue publishing in January of 1992; that won't change unless there's enough of a financial reason to continue to put this thing out.

A COUPLE MORE THINGS...the second half of the first round of the tournament is on the following page. There seems to have been a little confusion among all our new readers as to what this is all about. Basically, it's just a fun, imaginary tournament that Sean "Rio" Grande puts together once a year. It's not to be taken seriously at all or suggest that these match ups could ever take place. The results are the result of your votes. You can vote how you would have the match come out if you were booker or you could base your votes on wrestling ability. It's entirely up to you.

THE SECOND THING INVOLVES a note received this week asking if I was the one behind the NAME WITHHELD letters on our letters pages. Nope. The only name I've written under other than my own is J.L.Newton (which was some comedy stuff that no one saw any humor in) and an occasional Emily Latrella letter. The rest of them are real people, though in a couple of cases, calling them people does stretch the imagination a bit (I think you know who I mean).

ENOUGH OF THAT....now here's some of this....

FIFTH ANNUAL WRESTLING FORUM TOURNAMENT by SEAN GRANDE

Before checking in on last month's winners, let's take a look at the matches for the second half of the first round. Pick your winners and send them along to me at the address below. NOTE THE NEW ADDRESS!!! The number in parenthesis is the wrestler's seeded number according to past tournament performance.

- (3) Ric Flair vs Minoru Suzuki
- Sam Houston vs Big Bossman
- Brad Armstrong vs Ricky Morton
- (30) Riki Choshu vs Koko B Ware
- (19) Terry Gordy vs Bill Dundee
- (33) Rick Martel vs Dirty White Boy Anthony
- Tito Santana vs Tommy Rich
- Steve Williams vs Jeff Gaylord
- Hulk Hogan (11) vs Joe Savoldi
- Fatu vs Jimmy Valiant
- Kuzuo Yamazaki vs Dick Slater
- (22) Rick Steiner vs Derrick Dukes
- (27) Masa Saito vs Jeff Jarrett
- Bam Bam Bigelow vs Manny Fernandez
- Jacques Rougeau vs Marty Jannetty
- (6) Rick Steamboat vs Vic Steamboat
- (7) Great Muta vs Ron Slinker
- Stan Lane vs Nicolai Volkoff
- Bobby Fulton vs Ron Simmons
- (26) Ultimate Warrior vs Brickhouse Brown
- (23) Tatsumi Fujinami vs Chris Champion
- Tully Blanchard vs Doug Furnas
- Funaki Kobayashi vs Jim Duggan
- (10) Stan Hansen vs Kensuki Sasaki
- (15) Road Warrior Hawk vs Boris Zhukov
- Tiger Mask vs Billy Jack Haynes
- Lizmark vs Ken Patera
- (18) Nobuhiko Takada vs Tommy Jammer
- (31) Pat Tanaka vs the Snowman (Eddie Crawford)
- Terry Taylor vs Big Van Vader
- Yoshiaki Fujiwara vs Butch Reed
- (2) Ted DiBiase vs Beetlejuice

SEND VOTES TO:

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LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

LARRY WINDHAM over Demolition Smash 16-6...DEMOLITION CRUSH beat Akeem 5-7...EDDIE GILBERT downed Jimmy Snuka 16-6...JUSHIN RIGER ousted Scott Braddock 14-5 (3 draws)...AKIRA MAEDA cut down Joe Malenko 15-3 (4 draws) ...JUMBO TSURUTA polka-dotted Dusty Rhodes 15-7...TOMMY ROGERS slipped by Hector Guererro 11-10 (1 draw)...BRET HART overtook Barbarian 16-6...WEN HART smashed Eric Sbraccia 15-3 (4 draws)...TONY ATLAS out muscled Sean Michaels 11-10 (1 draw)...KERRY VON ERICH outclassed Mike Rotundo 2-10...ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL destroyed Dustin Rhodes 22-0...LEX LUGER threw Jim Neidhart 19-3...BOB ORTON bulldogged Chavo Guerrero 12-10...SCOTT TETNER steinized Masuhara Funaki 14-7 (1 draw)...GENICHIRO TENYU upset Sid Vicious 12-10...RANDY SAVAGE whitewashed Wendall Cooley 22-0...OSHIKI KAWADA jammed Dino Bravo 15-4 (3 draws)...JAKE ROBERTS DDT'd Hiro Koshinaka 15-7...JERRY LAWLER crowned Mike Enos 20-2...LARRY ZBYSZKO hutout Jimmy Backlund 22-0...PAUL ORNDORFF rolled Michael Hayes 11-10 (1 draw)...SHANE DOUGLAS skated past Robert Fuller 12-10...BOBBY EATON lew past Dennis Condrey 18-4...STING stung Scotty the Body 20-2...KENGO IMURA suplexed Ricky Santana 17-5...BAD NEWS BROWN shot down Steve Keirn 3-9...ARN ANDERSON eliminated Jonnie Stewart 20-2...CHRIS ADAMS superkicked Paul Diamond 20-2...RICK RUDE gyrated past Negro Casa 18-4...RODDY PIPER lagged Haku 19-3...CURT HENNING slaughtered Phil Apollo 22-0.

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INDEPENDENTLY SPEAKING

PEOPLE WHO HAVE JOURNALISTIC backgrounds tell me that I should cut down on the personal opinion and report news. I insist that Wrestling Forum is simply a perspective of the news from where I sit. But reporting this next without giving personal opinion would not be doing anyone any justice. This fans, is as sick as it gets.

TWO YEARS AGO, JOSE GONZALES stuck a knife in Bruiser Brody's gut in a dressing room in Puerto Rico and killed him. Gonzales was later acquitted of murder charges because he and other wrestlers in the promotion convinced a majority of the jury that it was done in self defense. Gonzales was then brought back as a babyface, which left a really bad taste in most wrestling fans' mouths.

LAST WEEK, GONZALES TOOK part in an angle for a Japanese promotion in which he "stabbed" Atsushi Onita after an argument. Onita actually bladed himself in the chest while Japanese photographers stood by to record Gonzales' second victim. Onita required (well, not required, but begged doctors to give him) two stitches to close the wound. This should set up a grudge match between Gonzales and Onitas in Japan sometime before the end of the year.

THE FACT THAT GONZALES took part in this angle willingly shows that he has no remorse over killing Brody. It shows that killing Brody is something that he's proud of. In my opinion, it shows that he did committed the murder in cold blood, not self defense like he claimed.

SEVERAL PEOPLE I'VE SPOKEN with concerning this situation have brought up the same point. Since Brody was almost a god in Japan, perhaps this is all a set up to serve justice on Gonzales. Regardless of the reasons, this angle makes me embarrassed to be a wrestling fan. This is the most perverse, demented thing I've ever heard of in twenty-eight years of being a wrestling fan. I hope that those in the business will condemn both Gonzales and Onita and for that matter the whole damn Frontier Martial Arts and Wrestling Promotion.

NEXT? MAYBE WE CAN GET one of Adrian Adonis' friends to be attacked by a Canadian Moose and feature that friend vs the moose on the undercard. What a crock!

IN OTHER INDEPENDENT news, AJ Fritzoid will defend his Atlantic States Wrestling Association title against Morgus the Maniac (I don't make this up, folks, I just write 'em as I get 'em) in Dundalk, MD on the 21st of September. This show is being taped for TV, even though the group doesn't have TV. The idea is to have a tape to present to TV stations in the area so that they CAN get TV.

GOT A FLYER FROM A GROUP called Sunshine Wrestling Alliance (which sort of sounds like a promotion from an old folks home) that is based in Brandon, Florida that ran a show at the Sulphur Springs Harbor Club on 9/7. No results, but the only worker I had even heard of was Jumbo Baretta, oh, and Beff Wellington who used to work in Calgary (if it's the same guy, that is).

ROB RUSSEN'S IWA JUST completed a nine day tour of the northeast. They ran shows in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania during the tour with regulars Derrick Dukes, Larry Cameron, Manny Fernandez, Cousin Luke, Sonny Beach and Preston Steele. According to a press release, they had a telemarketing firm handle ticket sales plus an advertising campaign for sales in the program and the gross was over \$350,000.

ACCORDING TO THE SAME press release (and this comes from the promotion, remember) they had a contract with Sportschannel America for a thirteen week run during the summer. Herb Abrams' UWF has a thirteen week run over the fall months. The release quotes Sportschannel official Michael Lardener as saying, "I want the IWA in my office the first week of October to begin negotiations for a winter contract." It also says that several other deals are in the works to try and keep the IWA on the air.

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IN THE MEANTIME, THEY HAVE the following dates booked in September: 9/26 in Philadelphia; 9/27 in Aberdeen, MD; 9/28 in Manahawkin, NJ; 9/29 in Atlantic City; and 9/30 in Mount Holly, NJ. Scheduled for this tour are Bob Orton, Jules Strongbow, Lou Perez (light heavyweight champ), the Dream Team (Terminator and Sonny Beach), Motor City Madmen, Dukes, Cameron, Larry Winters and DC Drake.

ALSO, WE CONGRATULATE Rob Russen and Lynn Schuette on their recent marriage in Las Vegas (Does this Russen know how to pack info into a press release or what!).

THIS NEXT COME FROM A correspondent who prefers to remain nameless. it concerns an independent charity show done in Atlanta over the Labor Day weekend to benefit Muscular Dystrophy. The show was held on a large parking lot adjacent to the Atlanta airport, sharing space with food vendors, a stage featuring punk rock music and inept slam-dancing, games of chance, etc. There was very light attendance.

MOST OF THE WRESTLERS on the card volunteered their time, although it's speculated that main eventer Abdullah the Butcher probably didn't. Some of the workers also commented that "Joel Deaton never works for free." The ring was set up on one end of the lot, surrounded by a fence on three sides and a low hanging rope on the fourth. Wrestlers were admitted to the lot (there was more than ample space to park the average NWA audience and crew). No one told them where to park, so most parked at the same end of the lot the ring was on, next to the trailer which served as a dressing room. Shortly before showtime, a "power-mad carnival organizer" threatened to have all the cars on that end of the lot towed even though the space wasn't needed for anything else.

MOST OF THE WRESTLERS were working for free. A pair of local women wrestlers had been invited to appear on the card by the purported booker of the show. They arrived at 6:00, an hour early, having cancelled all their other plans for the day and evening to make themselves available and when they arrived they were told they couldn't work by Joe Pedicino. No reason was given other than he didn't like them.

TICKETS TO THE SHOW were \$7.00. The sign over the table said TICKETS (sic). About 75 people were seated at showtime. The show, following good independent wrestling tradition, started late. About 15 minutes before the scheduled showtime, several large uniformed security guards attempted to get all non ticket holders to move to the opposite end of the carnival (approx 100 yards away), yelling "the FREE entertainment is on the other end." Except that at the same end as the wrestling was a real Tucker auto on display (one of only 50 ever made) and a real live Playboy centerfold (attractive no matter how many have been made). The security goon then announced that anyone still standing at that end of the parking lot when the wrestling started would be charged \$5.00 to stand in the lot. Numerous people left, not only that end of the lot, but the entire MD fund raising carnival.

IN OTHER NEWS, MIDGET wrestler Little Beaver, who is probably most famous for having being body slammed by King Kong Bundy at one of the Wrestlemanias (III?), past away on August 16.

PRO STAR WRESTLING GROUP, headed up by Dick Caricofe from Hagerstown MD have scheduled a tour of the Pacific for October 10-18. They ran in Hawaii and Guam last June to two nights of sold out houses with hundreds turned away. Talent booked includes Kevin Von Erich, Cactus Jack, Ron Bass, Bambi and Peggy Lee Leather. They will be running five shows. The tour was originally scheduled for a couple of weeks later. However, wehAfa the Samoan learned of the proposed schedule, he booked the Guam Field House in order to block out the Maryland promotion. Promoters have, however, been able to rent the Field House for an earlier date.

6 Pencil Points

BEST ANNOUNCER IN WWF

In the race to decide who is the best announcer in the WWF, you could have Jesse (gone now), Hot Rod (How many times did he say "What a shot!" at Summerslam?), and Vince (who's worse than Gorilla and Gorilla sucks). So, my choice goes with Bobby Heenan; he tells it like it is and is very funny (this selection is for announcer only, not as manager).

Now that Sapphire has ridden off into the sunset, will she please stay away forever? At least that horrible feud with Sherri is now over.

-JIM COOK-

-Mount Auburn, IL-

NWA FUTURE

Another major problem the NWA experiences is angle development. Titan spends considerable time building feuds and over-exposing angles so that even the most casual of viewers knows what is going on. This also helps to keep the names of those Titan wrestlers in the forefront. The NWA's practice of bringing in talent for limited periods of time does not allow them to do this. I do realize that the two promotions are on different levels but the NWA does need to work on angle development. How long have we waited for Snuka to turn? For Virgil to Pearl Harbor the Million Dollar Man, etc...I can't think of any long range angle set ups in the NWA, but I can think of some long drawn out house show angles. By the time this letter is published, we will know the identity of the Black Scorpion. How the NWA (aka Ole) handles this angle is a major factor in Mr. Anderson's success as booker. He has done some things right, but a more consistent track record is needed in the area of angles and feuds. We are behind America's best wrestling promotion but we need to see the things that are important go right.

-DOYLE NORRIS-

-Indianola, IA-

JIM HERD'S RATH

Well, congratulations, Gallagher, you guys have done it again. Between you and the other sheets saying nasty things about our fearless leader, Jim Herd, he's gone off the deep end again. We're back to "no more talking to the sheets" because you guys dared to print something that didn't agree with him. Sometimes I think our boss would be more comfortable working in a country that is proud of its censorship. Sometimes I think he would do well running that country.

Well, thought you'd like to know that we can't talk to you or write to you anymore. That phone call you get this weekend is definitely not me.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

-Down South-

EARTHQUAKE PUSH

In response to a letter last issue about Earthquake, a few things should be considered: 1) He may be getting a push, but no way is he a star. He's not the one selling tickets. No one "likes him." 2) As to ability, since when is that an issue in a WWF match? Their average fan won't know or care either way. 3) The same goes for the notion of good looks. Dusty, Duggan, Volkoff, the Bushwhackers and Hogan himself all get plenty of cheers, and they're not exactly Tom Cruise material. 4) There's no one else with the group at the moment to fill the needed role of a monster heel. Perhaps for the very reasons mentioned (he's big, ugly and clumsy), he's getting over. It all adds to his "dangerous and unstoppable" image. Bottom line is, though, no matter who faces Hogan, it works because of Hogan. If he'd headlined Summerslam against the Genius,

it would have probably done the same business. But I know what you mean about Earthquake: Who cares?

Might there be some nice way to ask Randy McNeely to LIGHTEN UP? Do we have to read these trite, petty attacks every issue? Aren't there lots more fun things about this sport than scouring for the occasional insignificant slip up, making fun of people's home towns, and generally throwing tantrums anytime an opinion differs from your own? If something gave me that many things to complain about, I'd find a new hobby in a hurry. It's not good for your blood pressure. May Randy should check out soccer or roller derby if wrestling and its fans are such a huge disappointment to him all the time. Sure, there's a lot wrong with the state of things, but constant whining has zero positive effect on any of it. If he's "just kidding" you sure fooled me. I'd like to know why Forum feels so obligated to run every nasty word out of this guy's mouth.

-JOE COUGHLIN-

-Boston, MA-

EDITOR: Randy's letters, though negative most of the time are thought provoking (sometimes just provoking) and they represent an opposing viewpoint. I agree with very little of what he says, but he does have the right to say it. I tried to edit one of his letters once to make it less abrasive and caught hell from him for doing that. I have said before that the letter's page is not so that one fan can pick on another, but Randy has said that he wants to read any responses with his name intact. Either this is his idea of a joke, or he just wants attention, I'm not sure which. I'd bet the farm that we hear from him next issue though.

GREEN WRESTLERS

ON A RECENT PAY PER VIEW, Barry Windham and Arn Anderson cowered in fear at the feet of novice wrestler El Gigante. I felt cheated watching two major talents playing scared to a young guy who didn't know how to be menacing. Similarly, the Clash show had the always underrated, always in the prelims team of Horner and Armstrong, losing to two complete novices, the Master Blasters. I know the NWA wants an overnight sensation, but let's get real here. A novice is still a novice if he's 5' 7, 6' 7, or 7' 9. Why are the fans being subjected to green wrestlers on live TV specials? How do you spell desperate?

I'm probably in the minority, but I don't see Hogan-Warrior headlining the Wrestlemania 7 card. The rematch would have built-in interest, but how could the bout end? Hogan doesn't need the belt to draw. We know Hogan's not doing another job and Vince doesn't do a non ending at his biggest show. The rematch will probably air on NBC in prime time, prior to Wrestlemania. The angle to set up Wrestlemania will occur here and expect Roddy Piper to be involved.

-STEVE GENNARELLI-

-Binghamton, NY-

BAN WRESTLERS FOR LIFE?

Oh my god, I'm turning babyface! You probably never expected to hear this from me, but if what you told me over the phone is true and Gonzales and the Japanese guy re-enacted the stabbing angle, then no wrestling promotion on the face of this earth should ever let either man work for them again. There's even a limit to what I consider in bad taste.

-RANDY MCNEELY-

-Highland Park, IL-

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

THE LATEST CLASH OF Champions was held 9/5 in Asheville, NC. Here are the results and some comments:

FREEBIRDS VS SOUTHERN BOYS

A GOOD OPENER WITH everyone working which was a pleasant surprise. This was to have been a six man, but Buddy Roberts came to the ring with his arm in a sling (not sure if this was legit or not) so he seconded Garvin and Hayes while Bob Armstrong did the same for the babyface team. The end was a carefully choreographed and well executed. Armstrong got a hot tag. During this spot, he was whipped into the ropes where Buddy grabbed his leg. Hayes ran up and rolled him up, crashing into Buddy in the process. Hayes completed the rolling reverse with a blind ref who was taking care of Buddy. Bob Armstrong came in and punched Hayes and put his son on top for the pinning combination. Garvin made the save, though, and then was double shoulder blocked. The babies tried the same move on Hayes but he ducked. Hayes and Garvin went to get an international object from Buddy who tossed it way over their heads (this part looked pretty bad) and the Southern Boys did a double sunset flip and scored a double pin. After the match, the heels beat up Bullet Bob and gave him a double DDT before Tracy and Steve made the save. **GRADE: B**
TIME: 8:33 ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS: this allows the feud to continue...did anyone notice that the Southern Boys had the Confederate flag on their rears and the Freebirds had it painted on their faces?

BUDDY LANDELL VS MIKE ROTUNDO

AFTER A GOOD OPENER, the crowd died. This was a good 70's style match but it didn't have any heat. Rotundo won it with a backslide that seemingly came from no where. **GRADE: C+ TIME: 5:38.**

HORNER & ARMSTRONG VS THE MASTER BLASTERS

THE BLASTERS CONSIST of Steel (a tall, muscular guy with some potential) and Iron (a short guy who might have seen a wrestling movie once a long time ago). Iron looked like a guy who works for Ringside Wrestling out of Clinton, only the local guy knows a little wrestling. Iron missed two diving headbutts (he wasn't supposed to miss), one by a good foot and a half. If they replace him, they might have something. This was nothing short of a glorified squash with the Blasters giving Horner a double shoulder block to set up the pin. **GRADE: F TIME: 4:50**

NASTY BOYS VS JACKIE FULTON/TERRY TAYLOR

EVERYONE DID A DECENT job here, but Taylor looked disinterested. Fulton worked especially hard, probably trying to shake a bad rep, and as far as I'm concerned he overcame anything that has been said about him. The Nasty Boys looked good too, though a little rusty in spots. Fulton came off the top ropes in a flying body press only to be caught in mid air by Knobs. He turned that into a powerslam and Sags finished it off with a flying elbow. **GRADE: C TIME: 7:11**

BILL IRWIN VS TOMMY RICH

ANOTHER GLORIFIED squash with Rich winning with a Thesz press. Irwin was in for a one shot and they needed to make up for the job Tommy did for Race on the PPV. **GRADE: C- TIME: 3:58**

SUSAN SEXTON VS BAMBI

THE FANS LIVE MAY not have known this, but this was a straight babyface match. No one really cared about the match, including the announcers who used the time to hype other stuff. It wasn't that bad for a woman's match. Sexton retained her title by reversing an inside cradle. **GRADE: C- TIME: 4:10**

STEINERS VS MAXIMUM OVERDRIVE

OVERDRIVE WASN'T AS bad as I'd been told, but then again, they were working with the Steiners and getting squashed. I could have a good match with the Steiners, though (all it takes is a complete abandonment of fear

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and the ability to be tossed around the ring), so that may not be saying a whole lot for MO. Scott put a DDT from the top rope on Tim Hunt for the pin. **GRADE: C+ TIME: 6:24**

STAN HANSEN VS TOM ZENK

ORIGINALLY THIS WAS to have been Paul Orndorff, but he refused to get squashed, so Tom Zenk did the honors. Zenk had more offense than he did against Vader on the PPV, but this pretty well tells us what the NWA's future plans are for him. Hansen won with a lariat. **GRADE: D+ TIME: 3:17**

LEX LUGER VS RIC FLAIR

BEFORE THE MATCH, THEY showed some clips of their previous meetings. During the first five minutes of the match, I was asking, "Is this live or is it Memorex?" It was virtually the same match we've seen before with Flair chopping and Luger not selling a thing. Flair faked a shoulder injury about a third of the way through which led to him gaining the advantage after sucker punching Luger. It turned into a great brawl with a lot of outside of the ring stuff. Luger won by DQ when Stan Hansen did a run in and destroyed him. All in all, this was probably the best of the Flair Luger series. **GRADE: A TIME: 14:24**

STING VS BLACK SCORPION

BLACK SCORPION TURNED out to be Al Perez, but it took a few times of watching the tape and using stop action to figure it out. His paces were really shaped weird. His dark complexion also helped give it away. I didn't think it was him at first, but I guess a trip to the pharmacy can do wonders. Anyway, the match wasn't bad and actually it was a decent brawl. Halfway through, though, Sting pretty well took charge and it looked like it was going to be just another squash. Sting won it with a splash in the corner. **GRADE: B TIME 8:11**

ASSORTED NOTES, ANGLES AND TIDBITS

AFTER STING WON, ANOTHER Black Scorpion appeared on the runway and just stood there. We were led to believe that this is all part of the mind game that he's playing with Sting. This also allows them to run the Sting-Scorpion match up at house shows after Sting squashed him on TV. We believe that the Scorpion who didn't wrestle is Dave "Angel of Death" Sheldon who last worked for the NWA as one of the Russian Assassins. Sid Vicious came out and interrupted Sting's interview at the end of the show and ended up beating him up as they left the air. Sid wanted a title shot and Sting told him he had too much on his mind and then the dummy turned his back on Vicious (why? Why do they always have wrestlers make stupid mistakes?) and Sid clobbered him.

I'M BEING TOLD BY A reliable source that the Little Master Blaster who missed the headbutts is in fact the guy from Clinton Iowa who wrestles for Ringside wrestling Promotions as Mad Monk. **THAT** should give you an idea of how poor this independent is, because Monk is one of their **BETTER** workers. Sorry we don't have his real name yet.

DURING THE SHOW, THEY brought back the old top ten idea where they rank wrestlers and create some controversy. Stan Hansen was listed as the number six contender which teed him off and he started slobbering and spitting tobacco juice everywhere. Sorry folks, but I'm tired of this act. I'm tired of hearing how tight he works in the ring and how he really hurts people. The whole idea behind being a good wrestler is to be able to work a match **WITHOUT** hurting your opponent. That is one of the things a wrestler ranks a peer on and given that, I can't consider Hansen to be a top worker. If Ultimate Warrior was to hurt someone by accident in the ring, I'm sure we'd never hear the end of it. So, until Stan Hansen learns how to work an American style match, don't bother telling me how great he is; I won't be listening.

IN OTHER NEWS, THEY will begin "running the gauntlet" this weekend on WTBS. The object is to have one wrestler wrestle on all three weekend shows against other wrestlers whose names have been drawn out of a hat. The wrestler gets \$15,000 if he beats all three but if he loses, the three wrestlers split the money. Brian Pillman is the first to try and I understand that he's beaten by newcomer Dan Spivey in the third leg of the gauntlet. Scott Steiner will be running the gauntlet in the next few weeks as well, and I understand two of his opponents will be Flair and Arn Anderson.

BESIDES SPIVEY, THERE are a couple more new names to add to the payroll. Wendall Cooley is in and he is teaming with Alan Iron Eagle who is doing an Indian gimmick. There's a guy from the United Indian Nations running around here in Illinois thyring to get Bradley University and the University of Illinois to change mascots because of slurs to Indians. I wonder how he would react to some of the stuff wrestling does with Indians.

STARRCADE HAS BEEN MOVED from St. Petersburg Florida to St. Louis Missouri but the date will remain the same. The NWA cites lost TV time in St. Pete as the reason, however, we've been told that there are other reasons that are more likely. Many of you know that Stan Lane and Barry Windham regularly no show Florida show due to problems with local law enforcement agencies (sorry, I don't know what either did to get in hot water), and I was told that rather than have two guys no show a major PPV, they'd rather move the show. St. Louis? Great wrestling tradition, but they don't draw there anymore. Luger and Flair drew quite a crowd last spring when we took the trip down, but that was only about 4000 fans and some of us went for the phantom title change. One caller jokingly told me (I hope it was a joke) that they already had the titles and graphics done and the theme will have something to do with "saints" because of the name of the city. It was either St. Louis or St. Paul as an alternate choice and they took the lesser of two evils.

ROCKY KING GETS HIS REWARD for being part of the stupid racial angle that brought in Junkyard Dog. He'll get a push as the newest member of the Freebirds. For now, he'll just do the managing, but I look for him to step in the ring whenever the situation calls for a "designated jobber." No word on what has happened to Buddy Roberts.

LOOKS LIKE DOOM IS going to turn babyface. They are slated against Barry Windham and Arn Anderson at Halloween Havoc in Chicago and there has already been an angle shot where they attack the Four Horsemen. We assume this is a babuface turn, though, given the circumstances, I suppose they could always leave them as tweeners.

FOR THE CLASH OF Champions, the TV Guide section of the Chicago Sun-Times listed the show with this blurb: Wrestling superstars Sting, Ric Flair and Norman compete for coveted titles. Wait a minute! You mean we were cheated out of a Norman match!?!?

AS YOU CAN SEE from our letters page, Jim Herd has put the ban on the sheets again. He seems to be upset that we aren't "cooperating" with him. In other words, we aren't lying when he wants us to. I guess this means we go back to late night, anonymous phone calls again from untraceable pay phones. Doing a bulletin nowadays is a lot like being a character in a Robert Ludlum novel.

BARRY WINDHAM WILL BE OUT of action for the next four to six weeks with some torn or strained ligaments in either his knee or ankle or both, depending on who you talk to. This means he'll in all likelihood miss the Halloween Havoc show since it's less than six weeks away. I'm told that Ric Flair will replace him as Arn Anderson's tag team partner against Doom on that show.

THEY ARE TELLING CHICAGO fans that they will be signing two matches for Halloween Havoc at the next UIC Pavilion show on 9/30. The matches that we already know have been signed are the one that was just mentioned, plus Sting vs Sid Vicious and Lex Luger vs Stan Hansen.

WE'RE HEARING THAT JIM HERD has asked Ric Flair to take some time off after the Halloween Havoc show and come back with a new gimmick. Evidently the rich playboy gimmick has run its course and they want something more "modern." I'm not sure what Herd or Flair has in mind, but I have to agree that at this point in time, Ric Flair is stale. Maybe he'll shave his head bald and come back as a Ninja Mutant Monk. Shhh. Not too loud. Titan will steal the gimmick!

MORE NWA WRESTLERS HEADED to California to tape Family Feud. This time it's Sting, Luger (both were good last time) Brad Armstrong, Brian Pillman and Mr. Interview himself, Tom Zenk. It might come off okay with a good editor.

OWEN HART'S ON AGAIN-Off again agreement to start here is right now on again. Word has it that he'll start sometime after Starrcade, but that's an awfully long time away in wrestling time. The agreement thus far is verbal, so things can change at a moment's notice. No telling who's going to be in charge or who will be booker that far in advance.

THE SYNDICATED SHOW lost quite a few stations across the country when the new fall line ups were announced. They did manage to pick up a few like Des Moines (a midnight slot), but so far, there's a net loss. Poor ratings on the individual stations are being blamed. Maybe, just maybe it would help if they negotiated for decent time slots. Fans are so conditioned to late night shows being either reruns or commercials that last for an hour that they don't pay a lot of attention to what's on. I should say PEOPLE not fans. Titan has the best time slots and that's why they're considered major league (or part of the reason) while the NWA is perceived as being a group that'll settle for just any old time slot that comes along.

BE SURE TO CATCH THE NWA shows this coming weekend, both on TBS and syndicated. I'm told that some of the hottest matches you're likely to see in a long time are going to air including Scott Steiner running the gauntlet. I won't spoil the outcome of that series for you but will report on it next issue.

THE PHANTOM OF THE RING

by Ed Garcia

REMEMBERING PAT O'CONNOR (PART 1)

As every fan must know by now, Pat O'Connor passed away recently from liver cancer at the age of 65 or 66, depending on whose version you want to believe. O'Connor held the NWA heavyweight championship from 1959 until 1961, and later became one of the cabal of promoters who inherited the St. Louis Wrestling Club after the retirement of Sam Muchnick. O'Connor was the best-known wrestler to come from New Zealand, though, arguably, perhaps not the best wrestler. Strong arguments can be made on behalf of Lofty Blomfield, Ken Kenneth and George Walker. But whatever the argument, there can be no denying the achievements of Pat O'Connor. O'Connor did more than win the NWA belt; he helped inspire a wrestling boom in both New Zealand and Australia that was to last until the mid-70s. In the ring he was the personification of the gentlemanly scientific wrestler: the ultimate babyface. What he lacked in charisma he often made up in hard work. His only failure was that he could not translate his success in the ring to success in the promotional area.

O'Connor's home town was Raetihi, on the north island of New Zealand. He developed an avid interest in wrestling as a youngster and went to train under Dave Scarrow, a noted trainer and amateur wrestler. Scarrow was best known in New Zealand sports as the man whom Lofty Blomfield defeated for his first amateur title. Unfortunately, Scarrow did not live to see any of O'Connor's professional triumphs. He died at Raetihi on November 27, 1950, shortly after O'Connor turned pro.

O'Connor proved to be adept at wrestling, quickly downing all competition. He wrestled during his time away from his regular job as a blacksmith. His time spent in this profession would later pay off in the professional ring, as O'Connor was noted for one of the finer physiques during his early days. Seeking to improve himself as a wrestler, he moved to Wanganui, where he trained under Don Anderson. From there, O'Connor traveled to Wellington where he placed himself in the firm hand of Anton Koolman, the finest amateur wrestler ever to come from Down Under. Koolman taught O'Connor the fundamentals and details of Greco-Roman wrestling, and also refined O'Connor's freestyle technique. Armed with this training, Pat entered British Empire games in 1949, where he was expected to make a name for himself among the worlds best amateurs. But all this came to naught when Pat lost in the first round to the Australian champion by pinfall. This was to be the only blot on his amateur record, and New Zealand sportswriters chalked it up to his lack of experience, predicting that once he got a few international victories under his belt, O'Connor should be a chinch for the Helsinki Olympics. Had Pat continued in the amateur ranks he doubtless would have won his fair share of titles.

But all the amateur titles in the world still don't feed the bulldog, and O'Connor decided to turn professional. However, he didn't want to turn pro in New Zealand, having learned from the examples of Lofty Blomfield and Ken Kenneth, who were too mired in the New Zealand style of catch-as-catch-can to successfully convert to the American style. O'Connor was recruited by Walter Miller, who at the time was acting as a talent agent for Tony Stecher in Minneapolis. Miller, along with Paul Boesch (who was touring New Zealand), convinced O'Connor that it was in his best interest to train in America. Pat was sent to see Stecher in Minneapolis, where he was taught the basics of the professional game by Len Levy and Joe Pazandak (later well-known as the Dark Secret). To work out the kinks in his amateur style, O'Connor was sent to Dave Bartelma, coach of the University of Minnesota wrestling program. Bartelma taught O'Connor fundamentals of training and refined his wrestling style. Although this seems strange to fathom nowadays, wrestlers who were groomed by the promoters for main event status were drilled in the fundamentals of amateur wrestling. This drilling took place even if the wrestler was an amateur champion. The emphasis of the game back then was to simulate sport, not cartoons.

The fact that O'Connor was signed by Miller was not unusual either. Miller, a former standout professional wrestler and manager, regularly combed Down Under for new prospects. He launched the American careers of Lofty Blomfield, Ken Kenneth, Al Costello, and Roy Heffernan, among others. Blomfield and Kenneth were great wrestlers in New Zealand, both as amateurs and professionals, but never made it over here due to their stodgy style and lack of flavor. Both liabilities were ingrained during their New Zealand days, and Miller wanted to avoid that with O'Connor.

Blomfield was celebrated as New Zealand's greatest wrestler, a legend Down Under. Yet, during his American tour, he rarely reached the main event, despite being given a strong push. Kenneth was a more mobile wrestler than Blomfield, and one who packed more charisma with the fans. However, he, too, failed to stay on top in America. It even got to the point where he was given the moniker of "The Mississippi Riverboat Gambler", complete with matching outfit and heel persona. Costello, the man New Zealand fans loved to hate, only made it big when he and Heffernan formed a tag team. Sometimes, fans are hard to figure out.

Stecher marketed Pat as a clean-cut All-American type, even though from New Zealand. Pat's first match was a loss in St. Louis. He was to work the prelims to test the waters. From St. Louis, he traveled to Kansas City; St. John (Missouri), Winnipeg, Montreal, and Toronto, eventually finishing in Minneapolis. He lost more than he won on this tour, but the fans took to him as a wrestler and personality. Pat O'Connor was on his way to the top.

(Part 2 will cover Pat's championship and retirement years)

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SUMMERSLAM LIVE

by Joe Mannion

I KNEW IT WAS GOING to be a unique night when I went to the bathroom prior to the start of the card and a woman came out of one of the stalls in the men's room. She exited the stall and said, "I've got balls, don't I?"

EVEN BEFORE HOWARD Finkel came out to start the evening's events, the crowd was psyched. Buddy Rose and Shane Douglas opened at 7:45 before the PPV audience joined in. During this match, Vince McMahon made his way out to the announcers' position. A few minutes later, the crowd behind McMahon started a short lived chant of "Jesse! Jesse!" Finkel did a count-down to an announcement of a special guest, and about five seconds before they went on the air live, Roddy Piper came out to pop the crowd **BIG TIME**.

WHEN THEY HIT THE music for the Rockers' entrance, I noticed Sean Michaels leading the way with a slight limp and I knew he wasn't going to be seeing much action. It was very similar to the situation when the British Bulldogs dropped the tag titles to the Hart Foundation.

DURING THE DEMOLITION/Hart Foundation match, it was weird to see one Hebner refereeing in the ring while the other one was standing behind McMahon and Piper. Now, it's real easy to identify Dave as he has put on some weight since becoming a road agent.

SGT SLAUGHTER came out to an overall reaction of "who cares" as most people didn't bother to boo or cheer. The cameraman down near my section tried to call for a thumbs down reaction by prompting us. I responded by standing and saluting the Sarge. The cameraman tied different sections to get the thumbs down but fans would only mug it up for the camera. So, he gave up and never took a shot.

RIGHT BEFORE THE introductions for the Rhodes/Savage match, two WWF officials started to bring a table up to ringside. Pat Patterson stopped them before they got it up the aisle. Turns out that they were a match early as that table was intended for Hogan to bodyslam Earthquake on.

A FAN NEAR THE LOCKERROOM entrance kept holding up a pink Sting scarf during the entrances. I don't think the cameras ever picked up a shot of it. The WWF agents must not have spotted it since there was no attempt to stop the fan.**

OVERALL, THE SHOW was enjoyable and had the feel of being a special event. The Spectrum used to have numerous sellouts during the late 70's and early 80's. But, the last Spectrum sell out occurred on 11/10/84 for a Texas Tornado Tag main event of Sgt. Slaughter and Junkyard Dog vs the Iron Sheik and Nicolai Volkoff. Six years later, billing this match as a main event might draw more flies than fans.

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****EDITOR'S NOTE:** The fan Joe talks about is reader Dan DeLiberty who reported in last issue. He tells us that WWF agent Rene Goulet had been staring at him all night while he was holding up the Sting scarf and he suddenly realized what it was. Amidst his heart failure, Goulet ordered a security guard to confiscate and destroy the offending sign. The security guard didn't know which fan Goulet had pointed to so in his hurry to please Goulet, he grabbed a fan's sign from behind Dan which read "Hulk Rules" and promptly ripped it to pieces. Dan stuck the scarf in his shirt where it stayed for the rest of the night.

Joe Mannion is a fan from Prospect Park, PA who attended Summerslam live and thought you'd like to know what his experiences were like. If you attend a major PPV show and would like to file a similar report, be our guest. We are interested in as many diverse opinions as we can get.

UNITED STATES WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

THE JARRETT FAMILY LOOKS like it will be spending more time defending themselves in court than their champions will spend defending their belts. I hope they have good lawyers, because they have legal problems coming at them from three or four different angles right now.

THE FIRST INVOLVES FORMER champion, Eddie Lee Crawford, aka Snowman. Crawford has retained attorney Charles Carpenter to represent him in a matter pertaining to Snowman being stripped of the belt. It threatens to blow the lid off professional wrestling in the Memphis area. I was forwarded a copy of the letter that Carpenter sent to Eddie Marlin and Jerry Jarrett which says in part:

The purpose of my representation is to ensure that the Snowman is accorded fair and equal treatment as...champion. The Snowman feels he has been treated unjustly by the USWA in its lack of promotion and marketing of him as champion, its willful failure and refusal to give him main event and/or semi main event billing on its wrestling cards; and it has been publicly stated that he signed a contract to defend his title against Brickhouse Brown, which is totally false.

The letter continues:

Presently, my firm is conducting a preliminary review of the above allegations made by our client. To assist in this review, please immediately forward to me a copy of the USA Rules and Regulations for my review and records.

This could have lots of effect on the promotion. They may be forced into court where they will have to admit that championships change hands based on charisma and drawing power, not athletic ability. In that regard, I'm told, they may be subject to the whims and fancies of other businesses including paying workman's compensation, unemployment taxes and opening them up to the Equal Opportunity Act. The lawyer involved has requested a copy of the non existent Rule Book and it's a good bet that he knows it doesn't exist.

CARPENTER DID NOT RETURN numerous phone calls that I made in regards to the charges. Meanwhile, I'm told that Jarrett's lawyers are busy preparing a "rule book" based on what has been said at different times on TV. Of course, Carpenter, if he's any kind of lawyer at all, should be able to rip that to shreds because of the constant contradiction they have each week. Ironical that Snowman is refusing to return the belt that Jerry Lawler refused to return to Verne Gagne.

BUT THIS IS JUST THE first in a long line of legal battles for the Jarretts. A judge in Dallas issued an injunction there preventing Jarrett from having any kind of control in the World Class promotion. The injunction which was sought by the Von Erichs (Kevin and Kerry) prohibits Jarrett from using any company money, including writing checks, or selling anything with the Von Erich name on it. The Von Erichs, who own a 40% interest in the company, allege that they haven't seen any profit from either house shows or the syndication of the TV show. It's clear that the Von Erichs want to retain control of the promotion again, and in fact, they took Gary Hart to the Sportatorium and introduced him as the new booker. But, they may have cut their own throats here, because they also do not have the authority to write checks and I know of very few wrestlers who will work for free.

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MORE PROBLEMS CAME AFTER what should receive quite a few votes for angle of the year. On the 9/1 Memphis show, Eddie and Doug Gilbert were "fired" for their outrageous actions in Memphis. Jerry Lawler came out to plead with Eddie Marlin to keep them so that he could get revenge in the ring. Marlin finally concsented, but the Gilberts had already left the studio. The cameras followed Marlin and Lawler out to the parking lot where Eddie and Doug were getting in their car. The headed straight towards Marlin and Lawler and Marlin managed to jump out of the way. Jerry remained frozen in his tracks and took the bump of the year. He flew up over the hood of the car, smashed into the windshield, cracking it, and off onto the ground.

THE PROBLEMS BEGAN A LITTLE later when the Memphis police showed up at the studio to arrest Eddie Gilbert. It seems that several passersby didn't realize that this was part of a wrestling show and thought that someone had just been run over. The Memphis police wanted to charge Gilbert with hit and run, and when they found out that this was all part of the show, they wanted to charge him with reckless endangerment. They made sure that Marlin and the promotion knew that they would not tolerate such activities outside the studio or the Mid South Coliseum. Meanwhile, the Gilberts got word that there was a warrant out for their arrest (someone at the TV studio told them without knowing all the facts) and they went in to hiding of sorts.

JUST FOR THE RECORD, THIS is not without precedent. Several years ago on Georgia TV, Mario Galento hit his opponent with a roll of dimes and a sheriff's deputy came out the audience and arrested Galento for assault. The promoters had to go down to the station house and bail him out and explain that everything was under control. The deputy was not part of the show and he didn't know that wrestling was a work. And no, it was not Big Bossman.

THE PROMOTION IS TELLING anyone who will listen that they have inked a deal with ESPN. According to the promotion (depending on which story you get) they have signed a deal that would give them a permanent spot on Monday nights in Prime Time. Other sources say that it will be a one time special sometime in October. The problem is, no one at ESPN seems to know anything about it. I spoke with Ron Tobias of that network to get details and he tells me that this is the first he has heard about it (meaning my phone call). Another source at the network (who will remain nameless at this point) said that he knew that the network was unhappy with the AWA show and they'd like to do more with the Legends of World Class show, but nothing definite has been worked out yet. He refused to say whether they were talking with any other promotions until he could talk to his boss. Now what does that by itself tell you?

ANOTHER WRESTLER HAS SOME LEGAL problems as well. Chris Champion, who has been wearing a turtle suit and wrestling as Kowabunga, was arrested in Evansville, Indiana on 9/5 for allegedly molesting a minor. He has been accused of trying to french kiss an 11 year old girl while wearing the turtle suit. He was held in jail under a \$7000 bond.

I THINK THAT JUST ABOUT takes care of all the out-of-the-ring stuff so let's update you on what's been happening in the ring in the Memphis side of the promotion...

ON THE 9/1 TV SHOW, they ran another angle that, combined with the hit and run angle, should make this particular show "a keeper" with video tape collectors. Vicious Viki, Bill Dundee's new valet who has a tattoo and smokes (or at least chews on) a cigar, got a beer bottle smashed over her head. She didn't need to blade after that because she hit a gusher anyway. This led to a variety of things including Viki coming out on the 9/8 show and chasing Dirty White Girl around the studio with a beer bottle of her own. The natural progression then led to a match on the 9/10 Memphis card where the two girls were in a "beer bottle on a pole match." Viki won that match.

THE TAG TEAM TITLES HAVE changed hands a couple of time for those of you who keep track of such things. Jeff Gaylord and Jeff Jarrett won the belts from Brian Lee and Chuck Casey (subbing for Don Harris) on the 9/3 card in Memphis, but Harris and Lee won them back on the 9/10 card. They meet again on the 9/17 card so they could conceivably change hands three times in as many weeks.

THE 9/8 MEMPHIS TV SHOW made sure that everyone had had a chance to see the angle where Eddie ran over Jerry. They replayed the tape about a half a dozen time including a couple of times in slow motion. Lawler was injured when his hip cracked the windshield and had quite a number of bumps and bruises afterward.

LAWLER CAME OUT TO assure fans that this wasn't the first time that people had tried to put him out of wrestling permanently. He showed a tape of Jos LeDuc tossing him over the top rope and into the audience. He then showed the infamous tape of Tommy Rich and Austin Idol crotching him on the ringpost. He left the interview area by promising to put Eddie Gilbert in the hospital.

LATER ON A GILBERT interview, he said that he had a tape of somebody being killed in the ring. The tape he showed was Lawler against the late comedian Andy Kaufman. Gilbert explained that trauma of this sort causes cancer, which Kaufman died of. Doug Gilbert was with him for the interview and he was wearing an eye patch while the side of his face was reddened from a burn (and he still has very little hair). This was a result of a Jerry Lawler fireball from the previous Monday night.

IT WAS ALSO DURING THIS interview that they brought out Sam Lowe and announced that he had legally changed his name to Sam Bass. That name might not mean a whole lot to newer fans, but he was Jerry Lawler's first manager and was killed in a car accident some years back. Eddie Marlin came out and objected to the use of this "legendary" name so now Sam is going by the name of Sam Bass-Lowe. Sounds like one of those liberated female names (with no offense intended towards our female readers).

THE 9/10 MEMPHIS CARD WAS dubbed "stipulation night" because every match had special stip. The card drew just over 1000 fans which disappointed the promotion and they of course blamed the fact that school was back in session. Anyway, in a Lumberjack Strap match, Eddie Marlin beat Sam Bass-Lowe, in a first blood match, Dundee beat DWB. In a trashcan match (winner had to stuff his opponent in a trash can and close the lid) Brickhouse Brown beat Doug Gilbert. IN a Beer Bottle on a Pole match, Viki beat DWG. In a special challenge match, referee Frank Morell (who helped Noah load the animals onto the ark) beat Downtown Bruno. Lee and Harris regained the tag titles from Gaylord and Jarrett in a match where Bruno was barred from rigside. And Jerry Lawler beat Eddie in an Ambulance in a bloody mess when Sam Lowe accidentally sprayed Eddie in the face with something and he had to call for the ambulance.

THE 9/15 SHOW FEATURED two newcomers in Danny Davis (who has been working as the Galaxian anyway) and the Nightstalker, a rookie who has gotten favorable reviews for someone so new. Nightstalker doesn't appear to be in for much of a push because Eddie Gilbert came in the ring during

his match and beat the snot out of both him and his opponent. He's also not listed on the next Monday night card.

ANOTHER CONFRONTATION between Viki and DWG happened. DWG is not happy because she's going to be in a loser eats dogfood match (where do they come up with these silly matches?). Bill Dundee came out to interrupt an interview with DWB, DWG and Doug Gilbert and they started attacking him. Viki made the save, but they got the best of her until Dundee came back to make the save with a chair.

THEY SHOWED A "HOME VIDEO" of a match that took place in Portageville, MO during the week. Eddie had claimed in anjury and couldn't wrestle so brother Doug took his place. Greg Wayne, son of Buddy Wayne and brother of Ken Wayne was the assigned referee, but he wouldn't count the fall when Lawler had Doug pinned. Eddie, miraculously healed, then jumped in with Sam Lowe and started working on Lawler's leg. Brickhouse ran in, but he was intercepted by DWB who had a noose and ended up hanging him over the ropes. Jerry Calhoun, another referee, ran in, but he was stopped by Greg Wayne. Eddie Marlin ran in, but Buddy Wayne was there to stop him. As a result of all this, Eddie was banned from the studio for the 9/15 show. He showed up anyway.

EDDIE IS CLAIMING TO BE THE NEW King of wrestling, replacing Lawler. He named off a bunch of wrestlers who had come in in the past and tried to take his place but couldn't. Greg Wayne came out at this point and agreed.

DANNY DAVIS SHOWED UP with his face painted up Nightmare style and said that he was there to help Lawler in his fight against Gilbert. Eddie came out and asked Davis to join him. Davis refused, but Eddie left hinting that there might be a heel turn somewhere in the near future, mainly Monday night at the Coliseum. Davis is scheduled to wrestle that night under the Galaxian mask and then also to be special referee in a rematch between Harris/Lee and Gaylord/Jarrett.

A CLIP WAS SHOWN OF Gaylord and Jarrett losing the tag belts back to Harris and Lee. The heels got powder and threw it in Jarrett's eyes to cause the pin. Bruno came out later and said that it wasn't powder, it was just Jeff Jarrett's dandruff. How 'bout that...Bruno came up with a good line for once. Anyway, later during a Harris/Lee squash match, the two Jeffs came running in with a huge bag of flour and tossed it in the heels' eyes. The ring was one big white cloud and later during another match, anytime anyone hit the mat, this big mushroom cloud went up.

JARRETT'S RETURN for a Saturday morning show tells me something is up with the Dallas part of the promotion. Jeff had been working Dallas on Saturday mornings and returning here for Monday night shows. His interviews were always taped at the Mid South Coliseum (and if I don't add in an ill fitting, baggy suit, Bill Burnett will have a fit) after the bouts there. I have no word on what happened in Dallas over the weekend, but there's a possibility that Jarrett has pulled out until the legal question of ownership is resolved.

TV SCHEDULES IN MEMPHIS have been switched around. Fans there used to be able to watch wrestling non stop from 8:00 am to 12:30 on Saturday mornings. Now, the USWA Dallas version comes on at 9:00. At 10:00 fans have to choose between the WWF and NWA on competing channels and at 11:00 they choose between another NWA show and the live Memphis show (which runs for 90 minutes live).

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

AS I SIT HERE, I am hoping to bring you a live report from the Peoria Civic Center on 9/15, however, I'm not sure if the car will be ready to go that far (something about it needing a new transmission) and Peoria's too far away for my trusty bike. So....let's just go ahead and bring you some news and stuff first.

KERRY VON ERICH'S reputation has preceded him here in Titan. As you know, Kerry sometimes has a problem showing up for scheduled bouts even when he's in the same city. Titan has gone to great lengths to protect their investment including assigning Kerry a full time babysitter who will make sure he gets to the right arena and on time. To further protect their investment, they shot a match between him and former champion Curt Hennig at the Challenge taping that had Hennig pinning Von Erich using the ropes. The bout was announced well in advance as a non title match, but the TV crew filmed the action anyway. Titan sources tell me that we'll never see this match, unless of course Kerry decides to stop showing up at arenas. It was a couple of years ago that we suggested that promotions do this very thing: film a non title match where the champion loses in case they jump to another promotion. Make that a pre-requisite of getting a title. Titan is taking no chances here.

AS ANNOUNCED LAST ISSUE, Titan will do TV from Springfield, IL on 10/9 and it looks as if it will be both a Superstars taping as well as a Saturday Night's Main Event. I have made the proper arrangements at work so that I can be there and we'll have a full report in the 10/15 issue.

SHAWN MICHAELS' KNEE INJURY is more serious than first thought. He'll undergo surgery (not arthroscopic if I understood correctly) and will miss quite a bit of time. In the meantime, Marty continues to work singles matches, alternating between Paul Roma and Hercules.

A COUPLE YEARS BACK WHEN Iron Sheik and Jim Duggan were arrested in the same car, they came up with a rule that babyfaces and heels should not ride together to the matches. Evidently they don't enforce that rule a whole lot because at the 9/6 show in Moline, Illinois, Joel Kolsrud reports that the Road Warriors arrived with Bill Eadie (Axe), and stood by the locker room doors, joking with each other until someone unlocked it and let them in. There were a handful of fans who saw them.

ALTHOUGH WE'VE NOT SEEN the name in print from any "official" WWF publications, it looks like Tony Atlas will be wrestling under the name of Sana Simba. With a name like that, you know it's just a matter of time before somebody calls him Sambo and we get all worked up for the racial slur. It leaves me shaking my head in disgust already.

JIM DUGGAN GOT HARDWAY juice down in St. Louis this past week. Reports are that he tossed his two by four into the air like he always does and when it came down, he tried to catch it on his forehead. Split him open pretty good before the match even got underway.

A COUPLE OF ARRIVALS AND departures to report. First, Bad News Brown has decided to leave and just work in Japan. That leaves Jake Roberts without a feud so we look for something to be set up for him at the next set of tapings. Davey Boy Smith of the Brittish Bulldogs is also scheduled to come in, but a definite starting date has not been determined. Dynamite Kid will not be in as of this writing. Brady Boone, who was let go after the incident in the bar in East St. Louis has returned already and is going to be working under a mask and he'll get a minor push. Don't know if it'll be as a baby or a heel.

SURPRISINGLY, THE CAR IN FACT made it all the way to Peoria and home again, so here's another ever exciting match by match report of a live card.

CALLING THIS A LIVE CARD may be stretching it a bit. You'll see why as we go. We missed all but the last minute of the opening bout which saw Koko B Ware pinning Boris Zhukov. I'm told we were lucky we got there late.

DINO BRAVO VS TUGBOAT

But we got there in time to see this gem in its entirety. It started off with Tugboat giving Bravo three clotheslines in a row. That was followed by Bravo falling out of the ring and stalling around out there for 2:55. That was followed by a two and a half minute Greco-Roman Knuckle lock and then a two minute rear chin lock by Bravo. If Gordon Solie had been there, I would have woke him up to tell me about how wrestling matches contain more action than a football game. There's more action during the coin toss than in this whole thing. The end came with Bravo running on a prone Tugboat's tummy and then going over to incite the crowd. Tromping on Tug's tummy torqued Tug off. He clobbered Bravo with a clothesline (from the rear) to clinch a clean and clearclictory, er victory. **TIME: 9:44** (I deserve a medal for sitting through it) **GRADE: ZZZ**

RHYTHM AND BLUES CONCERT

After all I'd heard about these, I was ready to head for the concession stand. Jimmy Hart came out and said that they were getting fan letters from all over and that most of them came from right here in Peoria. Because of that, we were going to get a concert. It was hilarious. Valentine has loosened up and looks a lot more comfortable clowning now. He played his guitar behind his head while Honky Tonk sang lead. I'm glad I stayed, but I don't think I'd want to see many more of these either. Jimmy Hart did absolutely nothing during the Bravo match and his backup singing here was his hardest work of the night. My how times have changed.

CURT HENNIG VS KERRY VON ERICH

Kerry was not announced as such, but his boots still say Kerry Von Erich even though they've got leather fringe to cover up the name. Hennig took the night off here and only did 1½ bumps and not impressive ones at that. Most of the match consisted of him having Kerry in a sleeper and Kerry followed that excitement with a claw hold. It was more fun watching the ice in my coke melt. Hennig won by count out when he managed to beat the count back in. **TIME: 9:24** **GRADE: F**

HART FOUNDATION VS RHYTHM AND BLUES

THIS WAS THE BEST MATCH OF THE NIGHT. They didn't even lock up until the 2:15 mark, but after that, it got pretty good. Honky and Valentine used the whole match to beat on Neidhart while they played up Neidhart getting the tag, but the ref not allowing it. When the hot tag finally came (and Neidhart did a terrible job of timing it...he had to keep looking back over his shoulder to make sure the heels tagged first), Bret came in and cleaned house. Valentine saved Honky Tonk from being pinned twice before Neidhart joined in a two on two battle. The ref took a bump and the heels tossed Neidhart out of the ring. Bret was getting ready to piledrive Valentine when Honky hit him from behind with a guitar and busted it (there goes another \$29.95). A second ref came in the ring and counted the fall on Bret and they announced **NEW** tag team champions. The place was going wild. Part of them were cheering the **NEW** champs while the other half was protesting the decision. The first ref had seen the guitar incident and he reversed the decision. Surprisingly, Honky and Greg just tossed the belts down without so much as a protest. Good match, Bret was exceptional. I was told he was trying to impress a certain rat at ringside. **TIME: 12:38** **GRADE: B-**

PAUL DIAMOND VS JIM BRUNZELL

We had heard prior to this match that Diamond had been fired, but evidently not. It wasn't bad, but the BORING chants started almost at the start and never stopped. The match had a nice flow and aside from being able to see them call the finish (a Brunzell dropkick), even from the cheap seats, it was better than most of the matches on the card.

TIME: 12:07 GRADE: C-

BARBARIAN VS TITO SANTANA

Nothing here. Barbarian is freakish with his size and development. Tito did a flying cross body block but Barbie reversed the momentum and got the pin. TIME: 11:29 GRADE: F

EARTHQUAKE VS BOSSMAN

Bossman is over in Peoria! There were tons of those stupid sponge nightsticks and plenty of heat. It wasn't a bad match and Bubba was working his tail off. It's impressive to see someone of his size play the rag doll and that's just what he did. At the 9:00 mark, he hit EQ with an enzuigeri (ghetto blaster) and the place popped big time. He tied EQ in the ropes and did a cross body block that was impressive. Dino Bravo ran in to cause a DQ shortly after this and then Tugboat came in to even the odds. TIME: 10:18 GRADE: C+

ALL IN ALL, IT WASN'T a great show, even by Titan standards. Most people left happy though, so that's what counts. Attendance was around 3200 which is an improvement from what they usually do in Peoria. Some of that has to do with the fact that the Chiefs weren't in town and it was a weekend. They'll return in November for a Saturday afternoon show which indicates to me that they'll be running five shows per weekend in the fall and winter. What that means to you is that you won't be going to see the guys wrestle, you'll be going to see them make personal appearances inside the ring. Traditionally, the guys tire and by Sunday, it's like watching wrestling with stop action on the VCR.

WE WON'T BE SEEING Randy Savage for a while as he's asked for some time off and he's getting it. His vacation of sorts is supposed to run for about two months and he'll be back for Survivors. He and Liz have finally decided to start a family and will be using their time wisely during the next several weeks.

REPORTS FROM PHILADELPHIA are that Sapphire had her car broken into during Summerslam. The thieves got away with a mink coat and several pieces of jewelry. The police have no leads in the burglary.

WHEN HULK HOGAN PROMISED on Saturday Night's Main Event that he was going to answer all his fan mail, he must not have been kidding. One reader reports that his son sent Hogan a get well card after hearing this and he received a "personal" reply from the Hulkster in the form of a cleverly disguised form letter. Two days later, the son also got the newest WWF merchandise catalogue. The reader thinks that that is quite a coincidence since he'd never gotten one before. He wonders how the WWF managed to get his name.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

8/25 BALTIMORE (NWA) - courtesy of FRED NAAKISMA...Buddy Landell pinned Tom Zenk...El Gigante over Mr. X (Randy Culey)...Steiners beat Midnight Express...Stan Hansen squashed Terry Taylor...Mean Mark defeated Brian Pillman...Rock and Roll over Anderson/Windham by DQ...Vader pinned Dutch Mantell...Lex Luger DCOR Stan Hansen...Doom beat Orndorff/JYD...Sting over Flair...NOTES: Attendance: 3500...Sid Vicious a no show...Hansen replaced him and got a good reaction...Taylor replaced no show Tommy Rich...Rock and Roll got victory via reversed decision...Orndorff had Simmons pinned, but Butch hit Paul with an object (blind ref).

8/31 EUGENE, OR (PNW) - courtesy of SEAN RYAN...Grappler pinned John Rambo...Larry Oliver drew Doug Masters...Equalizer pinned Steve Sawyer...Steve Doll/Scott Norton over Al Madril/Ricky Santana...NOTES: Attendance 150...Grappler kept Northwest title...tag match was a non title no DQ match.

8/31 SALT LAKE CITY (WWF) - courtesy of WADE BILS...Shane Douglas over Brawler (C)...Hercules beat Koko (F)...Snuka pinned Buddy Rose (C-)...Hennig/Rude beat Duggan/Roberts (B)...Honky Tonk pinned Marty Jannetty (C+)...Warrior/Roadies beat Demolition (B)...NOTES: Plenty of no shows including Bad News, Martel, and Sean Michaels...Dingbat pinned Smash.

9/1 WARWICK, RI (WWF) - courtesy of ANTHONY PARILLO...Barbarian over Ron Garvin...Tony Atlas beat Mike Sharpe...Kerry pinned DiBiase...Roma beat Mario Mancini...Zhukov over Rivera...Rhodes pinned Savage...NOTES: Attendance: 2200...Atlas came out in Kamala like get up with jungle music...Mancini subbed for Neidhart...Rhodes-Savage was a lumberjack match and everyone but Ted, Kerry and Virgil served as lumberjacks.

9/1 LINCOLN, NE (WWF) - courtesy of BRUCE GRUMBERT...Black Bart pinned Jim Powers...Haku beat Lanny Poffo...Orient Express over Bushwhackers by DQ...Warlord pinned Tito...Sgt Slaughter beat Volkoff...Bossman/Tugboat beat Earthquake/Bravo...NOTES: Attendance: 2812...Haku cheered...he pulled off Genius' wig...Fuji threw in cane, but Sheepwhackers caught it and used it for DQ...Slaughter beat Volkoff with knuckle to the temple hold.

9/6 TAMPA, (PWF) - courtesy of SHANNON ROSE...Sgt. Rock drew Terminator...Ron Slinker beat Hurricane Walker...Dick Slater beat Mark Starr...Jimmy Backlund over Lou Perez...Steve Keirn pinned Bodyguard Mark...NOTES: Attendance: 110...Bodyguard Mark was managed by Johnny G. Lyons, a local rock and roll singer...he also managed Jimmy Backlund...Backlund vs Perez was a no DQ match.

9/6 MOLINE, IL (WWF) - courtesy of JOEL KOLSRUD...Ron Garvin pinned Bob Bradley (C)...Boris Zhukov over Jose Luis Rivera (F)...Tito beat Warlord by DQ (F)...Dusty pinned Virgil (F)...Tony Atlas defeated Buddy Rose (C-)...Hercules over Marty Jannetty (F)...Road Warriors beat Demolition (F)...NOTES: Attendance: 1500...Temperature in building was 110°...Martel, DiBiase and Sean Michaels were no shows...Dusty beat Virgil in 1:06...Hercules and Roma had a coin flip to determine who would wrestle, but before they flipped the coin, Hercules was ready to wrestle and Roma was already heading out of the ring...Demolition consisted of Axe and Smash...Tony Garea handled ring announcer duties, but no one could understand him with his accent.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

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WE'RE LATE AGAIN AS USUAL...several reasons...Mary took a job as a pre school teacher, the factory wants me to work overtime, the doctor wants me to increase my visits to the physical therapist for my arm, the Knoxville teachers went on strike a week ago so I've got an extra kid to look after while Mary works, the car needed major repairs, and I broke the toenail on my third toe, right foot. In other words, life goes on and I didn't budget my time correctly. Add to all that my mother having some health problems and my needing to get the research for my book out of the way so it can go to the printers and you should get an idea of what we're going through.

BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE changes we're making due to Mary's job, it will be both harder and easier to get hold of me. We need to cut down the late night phone calls a bit. You can still get hold of me from 11:30 pm to 12:30 am on weeknights, but let's not make it any later than that. I'm home here with the baby (baby? she's a year and a half now!) in the mornings from about 9:45 to about noon. Those would be the best times to get hold of me if you need something or you just want to gab. Weekends are hit and miss, but I'm usually around on Sundays after 5:00. I'll be here Sunday afternoons as soon as the book research is finished which should be another five or six weeks.

MIKE VIOLA AND SEAN HENDRICK should both return next issue. Mike's infamous TV station in Pittsburgh decided to not carry the regular shows for the past two weeks so he had nothing to really report on and Sean's busy getting settled into a new job.

TIM HORNOR WAS INJURED this past weekend in Detroit during a match with the Master Blasters (both of them). Reports from ringside say that the Blasters both missed several moves including a simple scoop-slam and that Horner left the ring favoring his shoulder. One correspondent said that it looked either like a dislocation or a separation.

ONE LAST CALL FOR A TAPE!!! I'm still looking for the NWA Pro show that aired the weekend of 1/8/90. It featured a match with the Dynamic Dudes where they went and got a little blond haired girl from the first row. The show was taped in Peoria and that's my kid Kelly they're attempting to kidnap. If any of you still have this on tape, please let me know. I'm willing to give a six month subscription to whoever can provide me with a copy. Call me before sending to make sure no one else is going to send it first.

THE RING OF IMMORTALS, our "hall of fame" will continue as we've mentioned before. It will become part of the yearbook, but the balloting will be open to all wrestling fans (not just Wrestling Forum readers). The balloting will begin with a list of eligible candidates in the October 15 edition of Forum. If any other newsletter editors are interested in carrying the ballot in their publication, please let me know.

JACK BRICKHOUSE HOSTED the NWA's debut on WGN. Brickhouse is most famous for his cry of "Hey! Hey!" whenever a Chicago Cub hit a homerun (I got so sick of hearing that phrase in 1969 that I hope to never hear it again). Brickhouse started off calling wrestling matches from the Marigold in Chicago back in the 50's. Sorry folks, I don't go back quite that far, though I hear that he was very good. His addition is meant to give the NWA some heavy duty credibility in the Chicago market.

ALL DONE FOR THIS TIME...keep them cards and letters comin' as they say in show biz. In the meantime, happy trails to you, until we meet again (someone should write a song like that). Bye.

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